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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,921	08/27/2003	Tran M. Nguyen	194-29741-US	6081
24923	7590	03/30/2006	EXAMINER	
PAUL S MADAN MADAN, MOSSMAN & SRIRAM, PC 2603 AUGUSTA, SUITE 700 HOUSTON, TX 77057-1130			DOUGLAS, JOHN CHRISTOPHER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1764	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/649,921		NGUYEN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	John C. Douglas		1764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/27/03, 1/15/04, 8/6/04, & 10/7/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Awbrey (US 5080779).
3. With regard to claims 1-8 and 21-26, Awbrey discloses a method for removing metals from a hydrocarbon phase to a water phase involving adding between about 9.90 ppm to about 59.40 ppm of N-2-hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (a poly-hydroxy carboxylic acid), water and an amount of sulfuric acid sufficient to lower the pH of water wash to 3.5 to an emulsion of hydrocarbon and water (see Awbrey, column 3, lines 16-18, column 5, lines 16-17, Tables I and II) and separating the emulsion into a hydrocarbon phase and an aqueous phase containing at least a portion of the metals (see Awbrey, column 4, line 63 – column 5, line 6).
4. Claims 9-13 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Awbrey. Awbrey discloses a composition for removing metals from a hydrocarbon phase to a water phase comprising between about 9.90 ppm to about 59.40 ppm of N-2-hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (a poly-hydroxy carboxylic acid), water and an amount of sulfuric acid sufficient to lower the pH of water wash to 3.5 to an emulsion

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of hydrocarbon and water (see Awbrey, column 3, lines 16-18, column 5, lines 16-17, Tables I and II).

5. Claims 14-20 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Awbrey. Awbrey discloses a treated hydrocarbon emulsion comprising between about 9.90 ppm to about 59.40 ppm of N-2-hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (a poly-hydroxy carboxylic acid), water, 21 ppm of iron and an amount of sulfuric acid sufficient to lower the pH of water wash to 3.5 to an emulsion of hydrocarbon and water (see Awbrey, column 3, lines 16-18, column 5, lines 16-17, Tables I and II).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Martin (US 4276185), Street (US 4167214), and Blair (US 4342657).

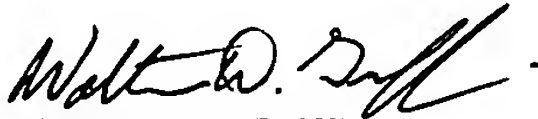
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John C. Douglas whose telephone number is 571-272-1087. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn A. Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JCD


Walter D. Griffin
Primary Examiner